

THE BIDDING GIVES YOU CLUES

Your partner has passed but your RHO opens a weak 2♥. Holding this hand for South, what do you do?

♠ A53
♥ AJ104
♦ K6
♣ AQ87

You have 18 HCP but your longest suit is the suit that East bid. In the old days, a popular response would be to pass. This was called the “trap pass” where you hoped to get a sizable penalty if they stay in hearts. Today, this bid has become passé. The expert treatment is to bid 2NT. This is a strong bid and shows a hand that would have opened 1NT. It also shows stoppers in the bid suit. Don’t confuse this with the unusual 2NT. That is a jump bid that shows either a weak or a very strong hand and asks partner to bid his longest minor suit.

West doubles for penalty and 2NT becomes the final contract. West leads the ♥3. Plan the play with this dummy:

North	♠ J109
	♥ 82
	♦ A743
	♣ J1054
West	♥3
South	♠ A53
	♥ AJ104
	♦ K6
	♣ AQ87

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2♥	2NT
Dbl	All Pass		

You have 6 top tricks: 1 spade, 1 heart, 2 diamonds and 1 club. Since you have 6 hearts between you and the dummy; and East has shown 6 hearts by his weak 2 opening, West is leading a singleton and East holds the ♥KQ. You can get another heart by finessing the ♥10 against the known ♥K in East.

Two more tricks can come from clubs once the ♣K is knocked out. You should be able to make this contract as long as the opponents don’t take 6 tricks first.

You win the ♥A and lead the ♣A. There is no sense in finessing the ♣Q. West is sure to hold all the remaining points. You have 24 HCP and East has “shown” 5 HCP in hearts. That only leaves 11 HCP which West would need for his double. Once you get into the dummy, lead

your remaining heart. East will probably rise with the ♥K, which will give you 2 extra hearts. You should be able to take 9 tricks because you listened to the bidding and made your plans based on those clues.

Here is the entire deal:

♠ 12	N North	W	N	E	S
	♠ J109 ♥ 82 ♦ A743 ♣ J1054	P X	P P	2♥ P	2NT P
W West		E East			
♠ KQ76 ♥ 3 ♦ QJ98 ♣ K962		♠ 842 ♥ KQ9765 ♦ 1052 ♣ 3			
	S South				
	♠ A53 ♥ AJ104 ♦ K6 ♣ AQ87				
		2NTx S		NS: 0 EW: 0	

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/omcpbzl> , or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the “Next” button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on “Play” you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.